



Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: August 18, 2026

Agenda Item: **2026-O-20** an ordinance amending 5.20.025 Alcohol License Review Committee to add review of and advising on public safety concerns to the duties of the Committee

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BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what, when, where, why)

Staff was directed to draft an ordinance on adding review of public safety matters and denials of licenses to the Alcohol License Review Committee. Ordinance 2026-O-20 makes 4 substantive changes to make this effect.

Section 1 Renames the committee and adds the authority to advise on public safety matters as well as the authority to conduct hearings on appeal or revocation of other licenses under title 5 of the City of Whitewater Ordinances.

Section 2 Updates the name of the committee as specified in other sections of the Whitewater Ordinances.

Section 3 Transfers review from the Common Council to the Public Safety and License Review Committee.

Section 4 Updates the abbreviation to the new name of the committee in other sections of the Whitewater Ordinances.

Attached to this memo is a summary table that lists every chapter within Title 5. It also identifies every section referencing the Common Council and a recommendation of transferring the section to reference to the newly named Public Safety and License Review Committee instead of council. The recommendation was made to change the reference if the Common Council was participating in issuing, suspending, or revoking a license approval. Recommendation is made to not change the ordinance when the Common Council is setting fees, establishing requirements, or expresses the Common Council's intentions in creating the ordinances.

It should be noted that Section 5.80.010 provides a general authority for the City Manager or their designee to issue most of the licenses and only has the Common Council hold hearing on appeals of those licenses. For those sections not included in 5.80.010 the chapters themselves designate the Community Development Director as having authority to issue permits, or do not have specific licenses or permits that need to be issued.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

May 5, 2026: Common Council requested an ordinance be drafted adding review of public safety matters to the Alcohol License Review Committee.

August 4, 2026: Common Council reviewed the proposed ordinance and requested the ordinance be further amended to include review of denials of other types of licenses.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

No financial impact as the changes focus on the committee making the decision instead of adding or removing requirements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Ordinance 2026-O-20 as presented.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED
(If none, state N/A)

1. Summary of Title 5